



VIA: USPS Certified Mail  
Shipping Event: 1st

April 11, 2012

Virginia Lee Stewart  
Evergreen Walking Horse Farm, LLC  
3606 Highway 231 South  
Shelbyville, TN 37160

## **OFFICIAL WARNING**

Re: Reference number AL10025-AC

Dear Sir or Madam:

### **Why You Are Receiving This Letter**

We believe that you violated the Horse Protection Act (15 U.S.C. § 1821 et seq.) (HPA), as described in the attached Official Warning. Our agency, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), is responsible for enforcing the HPA, and other agriculture laws that help prevent the spread of animal and plant pests and diseases, and ensure the welfare of animals.

After providing you with an opportunity for a hearing, we may impose civil penalties of up to \$2,200, or other sanctions, for each violation described in this Official Warning. Although we generally pursue penalties for this type of violation(s), we have decided not to pursue penalties in this instance so long as you comply, in the future, with laws that APHIS enforces.

### **Consequences Of Continuing Non-Compliance**

If you violate laws that APHIS enforces in the future, we may pursue criminal penalties, or we may pursue civil penalties for the violations described in this Official Warning, in addition to any penalties we may pursue for any future violations.

### **What To Do If You Have Questions**

If you have any questions concerning this Official Warning, contact Jennifer Jones at (301) 851-2780 or call our main office number at (301) 851-2948.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE



**OFFICIAL WARNING  
VIOLATION OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS**

**CASE NUMBER:**  
AL10025-AC

**VIOLATOR:**  
Virginia Lee Stewart  
Evergreen Walking Horse Farm, LLC

**ADDRESS (Street, City, State, ZIP Code):**  
3606 Highway 231 South  
Shelbyville, TN 37160

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has evidence that on or about the date(s) listed below, you or your organization committed the following violation(s) of Federal Regulations:

**Date of Violation: May 29, 2010**

**15 U.S.C. § 1824(2)** Unlawful Acts. The (A) showing or exhibiting, in any horse show or horse exhibition, of any horse which is sore, (B) entering for the purpose of showing or exhibiting in any horse show or horse exhibition, any horse which is sore, (C) selling, auctioning, or offering for sale, in any horse sale or auction, any horse which is sore, and (D) allowing any activity described in clause (A), (B), or (C) respecting a horse which is sore by the owner of such horse.

You allowed the showing or exhibiting of the sore horse, "The Golden Sovereign," at the 40th Annual Spring Fun Show.

**Date of Violation: May 29, 2010**

**9 C.F.R. § 11.3** Scar rule. The scar rule applies to all horses born on or after October 1, 1975. Horses subject to this rule that do not meet the...scar rule criteria shall be considered to be "sore" and are subject to all prohibitions of section 5 of the Act.

You allowed the showing or exhibiting of the sore horse, "The Golden Sovereign," at the 40th Annual Spring Fun Show.

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) created federal regulations to ensure the welfare of animals and help prevent the spread of animal and plant pests and diseases. Since violations of the regulations can have serious and costly impacts that are detrimental to the public interest, APHIS is providing you with an Official Warning for the violation(s) described above. Any further violation of these federal regulations may result in the assessment of a civil penalty, criminal prosecution, or other sanctions. If you have any questions concerning this Official Warning or violation(s), please contact the APHIS official listed in this notice.

<b>APHIS OFFICIAL (Name):</b> Robert J. Huttenlocker	<b>OFFICE ADDRESS:</b> 4700 River Road, Unit 85 Riverdale, MD 20737
<b>APHIS OFFICIAL (Title):</b> Director, Investigative and Enforcement Services	<b>DATE ISSUED:</b> 4/11/2012 <b>TELEPHONE NUMBER:</b> (301) 851-2948